



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

Robert Schneider, Chair



Gray Davis
Governor

Sacramento Main Office

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5>
3443 Routier Road, Suite A, Sacramento, California 95827-3003
Phone (916) 255-3000 • FAX (916) 255-3015

16 April 2003

To: All Interested Parties (mailing list attached)

Requests for Extension of Time to Submit Written Comments and for Continuation of the Public Meeting Regarding The Proposed Revision of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Within the Central Valley Region

A number of requests have been received regarding the above subject, and they have been reviewed and discussed with the Mr. Robert Schneider, Regional Board Chair.

While I appreciate the fact that interested parties are being presented a relatively lengthy and involved agenda item for review and evaluation in a relatively short period of time, the matter will be presented to the Regional Board as scheduled, i.e., on Thursday, 24 April 2003, no earlier than 1:00 p.m. Of course at the meeting the Board may decide, at its discretion, to continue the hearing to or receive additional discussion and testimony at a later date, as well as to allow additional time for further written comment.

We are not unmindful of the need for thorough and reasoned analysis and response to the staff proposal. However the decision to proceed at this time is necessitated by several considerations. Firstly, the item, though much more detailed, is in its essence not new; it is based on the extensive comments and testimony received at the December 2002 Regional Board hearing on the matter. Secondly, the Regional Board initially had requested that the matter be brought back in March 2003 but agreed to postpone it then in order to allow interested parties an opportunity to mediate the issues that separated them.

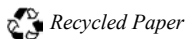
As stated in the Notice of Public Meeting for this item, written comments (hard copy) have been requested by Monday, 21 April 2003 [c.o.b.]. This allows two days for staff to read the comments and be prepared to respond as appropriate at the meeting. Parties are asked to provide oral comments at the Board meeting, and such comments should summarize any written material that is submitted. Any party addressing the Board may request additional time to provide their oral comments, may request that the Board accept additional written material, and may request that the Board allow additional time in which to submit additional written material.

The interest, attention, and diligence that all interested parties have devoted to this matter are recognized and greatly appreciated. We do not choose to proceed forward in a cavalier manner or in disregard of the importance of the issues involved; rather, we choose to move ahead with the hope and expectation that constructive dialogue and a forthright exchange of ideas will ensue and thus result in a sensible and legitimate course of action that is protective of water quality. We look forward to your continued involvement in this most important matter.

/S/

THOMAS R. PINKOS
Executive Officer

California Environmental Protection Agency



Mailing List: (Note: This letter is posted on the Regional Board Web site for wide distribution.)

Regional Board Members

Mr. Art Baggett, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
Ms. Celeste Cantu, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
Mr. Jim Maughan, Division of Water Quality, SWRCB, Sacramento
Mr. Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game, Region 2, Rancho Cordova
Office of Drinking Water, Department of Health Services, Sacramento
Environmental Management Branch, Department of Health Services, Sacramento
William J. Thomas, Livingston & Mattesich, Sacramento
George H. Soares, Kahn, Soares & Conway, Sacramento
Dan Smith, Association of California Water Agencies, Sacramento
Steve Chedester, San Joaquin River Water Authority, Los Banos
Allen Short, Modesto Irrigation District, Modesto
San Joaquin River Group Authority, Sacramento
Northern California Water Association, Sacramento
California Plant Health Association, Sacramento
Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES), Sacramento
Brenda J. Southwick, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento
Robert M. Nees, Turlock Irrigation District, Turlock
Michael Lozeau, Earthjustice, Stanford
Bill Jennings, DeltaKeeper/WaterKeepers No. California, Stockton
Sejal Choksi, San Francisco Bay Keeper/WaterKeepers No. California, San Francisco
Jonathan Kaplan, Natural Resources Defense Council, San Francisco
Linda Sheehan, The Ocean Conservancy, San Francisco
Jim Crenshaw, California Sport-fishing Protection Alliance, Woodland
Teri Olle, California Public Interest Research Group, San Francisco